

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title, insert the following heading and paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/EP02/08844 filed August 7, 2002, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference, and which claimed priority to German Patent Application No. 101 39 499.3 filed August 10, 2001, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Page 1, before Line 2, insert the heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, Line 3, insert the heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 5, Line 24, insert the following paragraph:

Various objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment, when read in light of the accompanying drawings.

Page 5, delete the paragraph in Lines 25 - 26.

Page 5, Line 27, insert the heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 6, Line 6, insert the heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Page 9, after Line 2, insert the following paragraph:

In accordance with the provisions of the patent statutes, the principle and mode of operation of this invention have been explained and illustrated in its preferred embodiment. However, it must be understood that this invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically explained and illustrated without departing from its spirit or scope.

Page 10, Line 2, insert the following introductory phrase:

What is claimed is a:

Page 14, before Line 1, insert the heading:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Page 14, Line 1, delete the heading:

Composite component, in particular valve, and method for the production thereof

Page 14, Line 18, delete (Fig. 3).